lea plantation in Kalahandi and Phulbani districts of Orissa

10. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land in Kalahandi and Phulbani districts in Orissa that has been brought under tea plantation so far;

(b) the total area of land that had been earlier earmarked for tea plantation in those districts; and

(c) what are the reasons for which tea plantation has not been started in the entire areas earmarked for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) According to information available with Tea Board, Tea Planting in commercial scale has not yet started in these districts. Four lakh tea seedlings hav$_e$ been raised in nursery at Simanbadi, Phulbani district.

(b) Government of Orissa has identi fied 2507 hectares of Government land in Thuamul Rampur Tahasil in Kalahandi District for tea planting out of which ad vance possession of 1200 hectares have been handed over to $_a$ State Undertaking. State Government has also decided for allotment of 400 hectares of land in fav our of M|s. Bajarang Tea Manufacturing Company Pvt. Ltd_, Calcutta and another 400 hectares in favour of M|s. Orissa In dustries Ltd., Barang for raising tea/ coffee plantation in Orissa.

(c) Signing of Memorandum of Under standing between the State Undertaking and Mjs. Bajrang Tea Manufacturing Company Pvt. Ltd. is necessary before commencing the tea plantation in the district.

Increasing the production of rubber

11. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) what efferts are being made to increase the production of rubber in the country; and

(b) the year by which the country is likely to become self-sufficient in rubber and the steps being taken in that direction?.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) The following measures are now implemented by the Rubber Board to enhance production of Natural Rubber:—

(1) Granting financial and technical assistance for new planting and replanting under Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.

(2) Producing and distributing high yielding planting materials.

(3) Rendering Advisory, Extension & training services.

(4) Encouraging Community Processing and Marketing among small holders.

(5) Undertaking research on cultivation, production and processing of rubber. Under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme, the following assistance are now provided:—

(i) Capital Subsidy at the rate of Rs. 5000/- per hectare to small holders owning upto 5 hectares in traditional areas and to all growers in non-traditional areas.

(ii) Additional assistance for the use of high quality polybagged plants at the rate of Rs. 6/- per plant subject to a maximum of Rs. 2700/- per hectare to all categories of growers.

(iii) Long term loan assistance to the extent of planting and maintenance upto maturity from Banks operating under NABARD's Agricultural Refinancing Scheme 3 per cent interest on such loans availed by the growers owning upto 5 hectares of rubber in traditional areas and to all growers in non-traditional areas being paid by the **Board.**